

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 043350
ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:ABERGSTROM:LLC
APPROVED BY NEA/AFN:JKBISHOP
M/CT:AMB ISHAM

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TO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 043350

E.O11652: GDS

TAGS: P I N S L Y

SUBJECT: LIBYA AND TERRORISM

1. LIBYAN CHARGE GASHUT WAS CALLED IN FEBRUARY 14 FOR DISCUSSION ON LIBYAN SUPPORT FOR PFLP FACTIONAL LEADER WADI HADDAD WITH AMBASSADOR ISHAM AND NEA/AFN DIRECTOR BISHOP. AT SAME TIME ISHAM REVIEWED PROGRESS OF SENATE HEARINGS ON TERRORISM. SENATE GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HEARINGS RESUME FEBRUARY 21, TO BE FOLLOWED BY SIMILAR SFRC HEARINGS. ISHAM NOTED APPARENT ABSENCE IN RECENT MONTHS OF LIBYAN INVOLVEMENT WITH TERRORIST AND HIJACKING INCIDENTS. HE SAID USG SEES THIS AS HEARTENING AND HOPES THIS IS AN INDICATION OF LIBYA'S INTENTIONS FOR THE FUTURE.

2. ISHAM SAID U.S. HOWEVER NOW HAS A NUMBER OF RELIABLE REPORTS THAT PFLP FACTIONAL LEADER, WADI HADDAD, AND OTHERS ASSOCIATED WITH HIM ARE CURRENTLY PLANNING NEW TERRORIST ACTIONS AGAINST BOTH COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT AND
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PAGE 02 STATE 043350

OFFICIAL INSTALLATIONS OF THE U.S. AND OTHER COUNTRIES (ISHAM CITED FRG, EGYPT AND SUDAN). IN VIEW LIBYA'S CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH AND SUPPORT FOR WADI HADDAD AND VARIOUS OF HIS ASSOCIATES, THE USG AND U.S. PUBLIC OPINION WOULD

PLACE A SHARE OF THE RESPONSIBILITY ON LIBYA SHOULD ANY OF THESE PLANS BE CARRIED OUT. FURTHERMORE, IN THE EVENT OF

ANY TERRORIST ATTACK PLANNED AND EXECUTED BY THOSE WHO DEPEND UPON LIBYA FOR SUPPORT, WE WOULD MAKE LIBYA'S CONNECTION WITH SUCH PERSONS PUBLIC. WE HOPE LIBYA WOULD USE ITS INFLUENCE TO EXERT RESTRAINT ON THOSE SUCH AS WADI HADDAD WHO LOOK TO LIBYA FOR SUPPORT.

3. WHILE NOT SPECIFICALLY DENYING GOL CONNECTION WITH WADI HADDAD, GASHUT DENIED LIBYAN RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACTIONS OF HADDAD AND "SOME OTHERS." HE SAID LIBYA SUPPORTS PALESTINIAN RIGHTS, BUT SHOULD NOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL ACTIONS OF ALL PALESTINIANS. HE LAMENTED DIFFICULTY IN CONVINCING USG THAT LIBYA DOES NOT SUPPORT TERRORISTS AND SUGGESTED THAT LIBYA IS THE VICTIM OF A PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN.

4. GASHUT ASKED IF WE HAD EVIDENCE TO BACK UP OUR ALLEGATIONS OF LIBYA INVOLVEMENT WITH TERRORISTS. IF SO, HE CONTINUED, WE SHOULD BRING IT FORWARD SO THAT LIBYANS COULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE THE INFORMATION. IN THIS REGARD, HE SUGGESTED THAT THERE WAS ALWAYS THE POSSIBILITY THAT INTELLIGENCE SERVICES CONDUCT OPERATIONS OF WHICH LEADERS NOT AWARE, "SUCH AS CIA IN CHILE AND CUBA." IN ANY CASE, QADHAFI CERTAINLY DOES NOT KNOW OF ANY LIBYAN INVOLVEMENT WITH TERRORISTS--"IT WOULD BE CONTRARY TO LIBYAN STANDARDS, CULTURE, AND ETHICS." SUBSEQUENT TO MEETING, GASHUT SUGGESTED TO DEPARTMENT CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 043350

OFFICER THAT THESE ALLEGATIONS ARE THE WORK OF EGYPTIAN INTELLIGENCE, WHICH WOULD BE DEMONSTRATED BY ANY THOROUGH INVESTIGATION.

5. FYI. DEPARTMENT CURRENTLY EXPLORING POSSIBILITY OF COMPILING EVIDENCE OF LIBYAN INVOLVEMENT WITH TERRORISTS, SUCH AS HADDAD, WHICH COULD BE CITED TO GOL.
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